Claims

1. A molded woody article comprising kenaf fibers and polylactic acid,

wherein the molded article has an apparent density not greater than 0.7 g/cm^3, and wherein bending strength of the molded article after the molded article is exposed to an environment of temperature of 50℃ and 95% relative humidity for 1,200 hours is not less than 60% of bending strength of the molded article before exposure.

2. A method for manufacturing a molded woody article comprising the step of:

pressing a pre-molding material that is prepared by dispersing a polylactic acid-base aliphatic polyester and a compatible copolymer into kenaf fibers, the compatible copolymer containing a first polymerizable monomer and a second polymerizable monomer as raw materials, wherein the pressing step is performed at a temperature that permit the polylactic acid-base aliphatic polyester to be changed to a softened state or a molten state,

characterized in that the first polymerizable monomer has a polymerizable double bond part and a hydrophilic group, and

that the second polymerizable monomer has a polymerizable double bond part and an epoxy group.

3. The method for manufacturing a molded woody article defined in claim 2, wherein the first polymerizable monomer comprises an alkylene oxide group as the hydrophilic group.

4. The method for manufacturing a molded woody article defined in claim 2 or 3, wherein a weight ratio of a sum of the first polymerizable monomer and the second polymerizable monomer to said polylactic acid-base aliphatic polyester is 0.1 to 10 wt%.

5. The method for manufacturing a molded woody article defined in any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the first polymerizable monomer comprises methoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meta) acrylate, and wherein the second polymerizable monomer comprises glycidyl (meta) acrylate.

6. The method for manufacturing a molded woody article defined in any of claims 2 to

5 comprising the step of applying the kenaf fibers with an aqueous dispersion of the polylactic acid-base aliphatic polyester and the compatible copolymer, thereby forming the pre-molding material.

7. The method for manufacturing a molded woody article defined in any of claims 2 to 5 comprising the step of mixing the kenaf fibers with binder fibers that contain the polylactic acid-base aliphatic polyester and the compatible copolymer, thereby forming the pre-molding material.